

PRIME MINISTER ①

HILLSBOROUGH

I am not sure whether you had a chance to look at the Hillsborough report in last night's box. This is attached and if you have time to read it I recommend you take a look at the conclusions (Flag A) and the recommendations (Flag B).

We have just received the Home Secretary's reactions (see Flag) and the draft of his statement and the Home Office circular in response to the Report. I also attach:

- my minute of last night, which summarises the document and gives a flavour of the strength of its criticisms against the police;
- a note of today from Carolyn Sinclair (written before receipt of the Home Secretary's minute) which highlights the particular difficulties the report raises for the position of the police. Mr Hurd is to minute you tomorrow about this.

Are you content:

- Yes ||
- for the Home Secretary to publish the Report on Friday and without holding a press conference himself but simply issuing a statement;

- with the terms of his statement;
- with the circular he proposes to issue?

OKs  
Caroline Slocock  
2 August 1989

What do we mean by "welcoming the broad thrust of the report"?

The broad thrust is devastating criticism of the police. Is that for us to welcome?

The circular does the same.

Surely we welcome the thoroughness of the report and its recommendations.